

MINUTES

P-16 Council Meeting June 10, 2003

Roll Call

The P-16 Council convened June 10, 2003, in the Council on Postsecondary Education's Conference Room A in Frankfort, Kentucky.

The following members were present: *Peggy Bertelsman, Lydia Coffey, Dr. Richard Freed, Dr. Gail Henson, Dr. Thomas D. Layzell, Dr. Susan Leib, Willie H. Lile, Dr. Kim F. Townley, and Commissioner Gene Wilhoit.*

The Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Department of Education staff present were: *Dr. Lois Adams-Rodgers, Dr. Jim Applegate, and Dr. Dianne Bazell.*

Approval of Minutes

The March 13, 2003, minutes were approved by acclamation.

Discussion: P-16 Council's Vision Statement, Action Agenda, and Possible Performance Indicators

Dr. Lois Adams-Rodgers and Dr. Dianne Bazell led the P-16 Council's discussion of the vision statement, action agenda, and possible performance indicators. The document's three goals target educator quality, the alignment of curriculum and standards, and student transition barriers in order to enable the council to measure progress toward a seamless system of education in the Commonwealth. The document will guide the five partner agencies as they work together to improve education at every level in Kentucky. The indicators will be condensed and refined in order to point to the seams in the education system where sectors meet, and baseline data will be gathered. Future P-16 Council meeting agendas will be set using this information.

Dr. Leib recommended changing the bullet regarding KTIP/KPIP performance under Goal #1, Objective #2 to:

Improve the effectiveness of KTIP. (There is no KPIP. Teachers perform well on KTIP, but how effective is the internship, which is under study by the Education Professional Standards Board.)

Dr. Henson commented (referencing Goal #1, Objective #4) that educators at the postsecondary level need professional growth in understanding diverse learning needs and in learning how to integrate technology into education. Dr. Jim Applegate responded that the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) designated \$1,000,000 for faculty development. These funds are used for the Faculty Development Conference, the Advising Conference, and the Teacher Quality Summit; and, the institutions were given \$900,000 for the creation and support of their campus teaching and learning centers. Dr. Layzell called for a more in-depth review of the linkages between Objective #4 and its proposed indicators.

Ms. Bertelsman questioned whether the 2006 timeline for the goals is too ambitious. Federal mandates set the 2006 timeline for P-12, and Dr. Townley indicated that although 2006 is a lofty goal it addresses the urgency of the need to reach these goals.

Commissioner Wilhoit called for a thorough review of the goals and objectives to identify gaps in the system in order to determine what areas fall outside the purview of one agency, and another to initiate greater dialogue between the partner agencies on what needs to occur to close these gaps. A document outlining the gaps in the system will be developed for the council to discuss. *(For example: The EPSB is planning to develop a process of credentialing alignment to ensure that the institutional programs issuing credentials are aligned with professional requirements and reflect the needs of K-12 and higher education.)*

***Action: American
Diploma Project
Policy
Recommendations***

As follow-up to the March meeting of the American Diploma Project (ADP) Policy Panel, staffs of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), the CPE, and representatives of the Local P-16 Council Network met to consolidate and organize the 14 recommendations into five policy recommendations for adoption by the P-16 Council. These proposed recommendations will determine a working agenda for the P-16 Council and its respective member organizations responsible for implementation. Commissioner Wilhoit shared the proposed recommendations with the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) in May. The KBE decided that as soon as the benchmarks are made available, they will be lined up against the current core content requirements, an analysis will be done, and necessary adjustments will be made. The benchmarks will be available for review in September and will be formally presented at the national forum in November.

Commissioner Wilhoit referred to Recommendation 5(c) and commented that there needs to be an emphasis on students. Students lack the understanding about what opportunities exist for them and the linkage between those opportunities and the work they do and the decisions they make. An aggressive campaign is needed to reach out to students (for example, linking students to professionals in career areas). Sheila Byrd with the ADP commented that there is a national initiative based on the Texas Scholars model whereby individual employers go into schools and talk to students about the importance of taking the rigorous high school program. This initiative provides grants in the amount of \$300,000 to qualifying states (deadline August 1). Ms. Byrd encouraged Kentucky to apply.

Dr. Richard Freed made the motion for the P-16 Council to endorse the recommendations made by the ADP Panel and to charge each of the lead agencies to approve these recommendations and develop plans for implementing them. Dr. Leib seconded the motion. The motion carried. Commissioner Wilhoit commented that by endorsing these recommendations,

the partner agencies will be set on a course to pursue the recommendations and to provide feedback (problems and successes) to the P-16 Council as this initiative moves forward.

Sheila Byrd provided an update on the ADP project nationally and specifically the benchmark development process. Workplace and postsecondary expectations have been defined and the research findings have been brought to policy panels to consider ways to meet the ADP goals (for example, use of assessment data in high school data, college admissions and placement, and hiring decisions).

Ms. Byrd commended Kentucky's ADP policy panel for designing recommendations that address long and short-term needs, for identifying responsible partner agencies, and for emphasizing communications. She provided a copy of the "draft" English language arts benchmarks to meeting participants. Ms. Byrd will forward a copy of the "draft" mathematics benchmarks when they are ready to the P-16 Council members. The November ADP National Forum will be the springboard from which ADP will conduct a national campaign to encourage all states to use the benchmarks. Commissioner Wilhoit indicated that most of the business and industry people from whom he hears seem to think the results of the traditional instructional delivery system and the pattern doesn't produce the kind of thoughtful analytical people they would like to see coming into their business. Based on what Ms. Byrd heard from employers and postsecondary and K-12 educators, she thinks it may have more to do with delivery than with content. Willie H. Lile, Secretary of the Workforce Development Cabinet, hears from workforce that other than reading and writing efficiency skills, industry is concerned that graduates aren't able to do basic mathematics, and this is crucial since robotics and engineering skills are becoming so important.

In Kentucky, the Northern Kentucky P-16 Council, the KDE, and the CPE will provide outlets for the ADP to share the benchmarks. The Employers Advisory Council will be participating in discussion groups next week with the KCTCS, the Partnership for Kentucky Schools, and the Office of the New Economy, gathering people together to look at the benchmarks. The national circulation of the benchmarks will happen after the June 23, 2003, meeting. Partner state teams from the five states are coming together to talk and share their work plans and their successes and frustrations. National circulation of the benchmarks will take place through a variety of outlets. A Web-based survey on the ADP Web site and national organizations will help distribute the benchmarks and provide a means for some systematic feedback from employers and postsecondary people about how they feel about them and any comments they want to make about them. Local P-16 Councils, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, and other groups will help distribute the benchmarks.

Dr. Henson was pleased that “working with groups” is bundled into the literacy standards that grew out of the emphasis in listening and speaking in the literacy benchmarks. Ms. Byrd assured the council that consultants for each panel would do crosswalks with the international baccalaureate and curricula from other individual countries. Some panelists are focusing on providing examples that are cross-domain to address the issue of teachers who aren’t necessarily facile with trying to make the connections among the benchmarks. Ms. Bertelsman emphasized a need for workshops on how to best implement these benchmarks and at what level. Dr. Freed commented that the first section of the benchmarks was a list of skills that would make students dislike English. He suggested that this information be moved to the back of the document. He also called attention to page two of the benchmarks under grammar usage, spelling, and punctuation and proposed changing “correct English” to “standard English.” Ms. Byrd asked that the P-16 Council members review the benchmarks carefully and submit any additions/deletions to her at sbyrd@achieve.org. This process also calls for review by the sponsoring organizations. Commissioner Wilhoit remarked that having clarity from the national organizations on what is acceptable would be extremely helpful to the states. The partner agencies are: Achieve, Inc., The Education Trust, and The Fordham Foundation. Dr. Applegate indicated that there are marvelous models in the communications and writing areas on ways to integrate oral and written communication instruction into a coherent package and assess it.

***Information: 2003
Governor’s Literacy
Summit***

Michael Miller, Director, Division of Curriculum Development, and Dr. Bazell shared information on the 2003 Governor’s Literacy Summit. The Kentucky Literacy Partnership will sponsor the summit on June 17, 2003, at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center in south Louisville and over 300 people are expected to be in attendance. The summit will bring local people together who may or may not have worked together in the past. Secretary Marlene Helm of the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet organized the Governor’s Literacy Summit on the basis of regional and local councils. The theme is “Literacy by the Numbers” and will feature Ron Crouch of the Kentucky State Data Center who will present demographic and educational data having to do with literacy accomplishments in reading, writing, and mathematics. Mr. Crouch has customized data packets for either local councils where they exist or (where they don’t exist) for the Area Development Districts. Groups from early childhood, K-12, postsecondary, and adult education will examine data particular to their regions to identify their priorities in achieving the statewide goal of eliminating illiteracy in Kentucky.

***Report: Local
P-16 Councils***

Gary Wiseman, representing the Bluegrass P-16+ Council, and Dr. Barbara Stonewater, Executive Director of the Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education, reported on the local P-16 councils. Mr. Wiseman stated that

the Bluegrass P-16+ Council is pursuing the following strands/projects: the early college concept, an employability strand, and an alignment strand. Under the alignment strand, 23 math teachers from the elementary, middle, and high school levels representing Clark, Jessamine, Scott, and Fayette County Schools came together to discuss the relevance of math issues.

Teachers' comments were:

There is not enough time to teach the core content.

There is strong desire to teach deeply with greater understanding for all levels.

More communication is needed among the levels.

Professional development activities are needed especially at the elementary level.

College preparatory curriculum should be considered.

There is a great emphasis on language skills, but not on mathematics.

There is a need for teachers in different schools to communicate with one another.

Student assessment to improve student learning is needed.

Greater attention needs to be paid to achievement gaps among student groups and to the criteria defining high-quality work.

Classroom teachers need to be involved in the broader picture.

Commissioner Wilhoit asked that all the specific comments be provided to him.

Dr. Stonewater reported on the activities of the Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education. Activities include:

Looking at ways to improve expectations and achievement in mathematics for all students and proposing a set of recommendations to be introduced regionally.

Moving toward a high school curriculum that prepares all students for secondary education and the workplace.

Planning a writing portfolio pilot project. Four school districts have volunteered to participate, and Thomas More College and Northern Kentucky University are considering using the writing portfolio in postsecondary placement decisions.

The analytical writing issue is being reviewed. The KDE expects to design a project in the fall that will provide writing portfolio information to Thomas More and NKU, and these institutions will track the performance of these students. Dr. Stonewater assured Commissioner Wilhoit that they have been and will continue to be in touch with the KDE on this issue. It would revolve around the KDE's conversations with teachers about permission they have to redesign the assignments so that they fulfill both the requirements of the writing program at the secondary level and also serve to demonstrate readiness for college work. Commissioner Wilhoit suggested a procedure be considered by the P-16 Council.

Mr. Wiseman informed the group that a statewide network of local P-16 councils across the state had been organized and had met May 13, 2003. A main agenda item was how to involve employers in the process. A discussion took place on developing strategies to deliver a consistent message across the state top to bottom concerning the P-16 efforts. This group talked about a strategy for communicating the ADP project. Some suggestions were to present to the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, to begin communication with the schools, and to develop a user-friendly project survey for the business partners. Mr. Wiseman acknowledged the following network steering committee members were at the P-16 Council's meeting: Dr. Dale Duvall, Beth Jefferson, and W.A. Franklin. Dr. Applegate stated that a P-16 Web site is being discussed.

***Action: Election
Of New P-16
Council Chair***

The chair of the P-16 Council rotates yearly between a member of the CPE and the KBE. Commissioner Wilhoit, speaking as secretary to the Kentucky Board of Education, recommended Dr. Henson as Chair to the P-16 Council. Dr. Freed seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Bertelsman presented Dr. Adams-Rodgers with a resolution honoring and commending her for her service to the P-16 Council. Dr. Henson presented Ms. Bertelsman with a certificate in honor of her outstanding leadership and dedication to the P-16 Council.

Next Meeting

September 9, 2003.

Linda France, Deputy Commissioner
Learning and Results Services
Kentucky Department of Education

Regina Mingua, Executive Secretary
Kentucky Department of Education